

# Smarter Balanced (SBAC) Assessment Resources

## Quarterly Bulletin: July – September 2013

*This quarterly bulletin compiles Smarter Balanced resources that were shared via the Agency's [Weekly Field Memo](#). The bulletins are stored on the Agency's [Smarter Balanced web page](#).*

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### NEWS & UPDATES:

#### Introductory Information for Parents, Educators and Community Members about the Smarter Balanced Assessment System

##### Audience: All

In the spring of 2015 Vermont students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11 will begin taking the Smarter Balanced English Language Arts and Math Assessments, along with students in at least 22 other states. [Click here](#) to learn about the Smarter Balanced Assessment and how it differs from our current NECAP tests. The PowerPoint and other resources are available online: <http://bit.ly/12vmqIW>.

**Contact:** Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or [michael.hock@state.vt.us](mailto:michael.hock@state.vt.us)

#### Device Readiness (Standards for Assessment Readiness)

**Audience:** Principals, Tech Coordinators, Superintendents, Curriculum Coordinators, Anyone working with online assessment preparation

**Deadline:** September 19, 2013

Please [click here](#) to view a spreadsheet which indicates schools' device readiness as of the end of August 2013 (the data focuses only on the *devices* that meet the minimum standards for assessment readiness). As you can see we are at about 55% readiness, please [click here](#) to read the memo which explains further. The persons responsible for entering data in your districts or schools have been notified already and should be working on it. Please urge them to complete the update of information by September 19<sup>th</sup>. Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/19LMX94>.

**Contact:** Peter Drescher, Ed Tech Coordinator, at 802-479-1169 or [peter.drescher@state.vt.us](mailto:peter.drescher@state.vt.us)

#### Smarter Balanced Adopts Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines

**Audience:** All

Smarter Balanced governing states met last week to review and approve major policy decisions for the consortium, including adopting the accessibility and accommodations guidelines. Read the full press release here: <http://bit.ly/1e3MLXx>.

**Contact:** Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or [michael.hock@state.vt.us](mailto:michael.hock@state.vt.us)

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## **FAQs:**

### **SBAC FAQ: What Do I Need to Know about Infrastructure?**

#### **Audience: All**

What if my school or district does not have the infrastructure to support computer adaptive testing? [Click here](http://education.vermont.gov/sbac) to read the answer. Learn more here: <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>.

**Contact:** Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or [michael.hock@state.vt.us](mailto:michael.hock@state.vt.us)

### **SBAC FAQ: What will the Smarter Balanced Assessments Mean for Me?**

#### **Audience: All**

What will the [Smarter Balanced Assessments](http://education.vermont.gov/sbac) mean for me? Read the answer to this week's question here: <http://bit.ly/11CPdj9>, read past FAQs here: <http://bit.ly/1ioyoRn>.

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### **SBAC FAQ: When Will the Practice Test Scoring Guides Be Released?**

#### **Audience: All**

When will the Practice Test scoring guides be released? [Click here](http://education.vermont.gov/sbac) to read the answer. Learn more about the new assessments here: <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>.

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### **SBAC FAQ: How will Smarter Balanced Meet the Needs of All Students?**

#### **Audience: All**

How will Smarter Balanced Meet the Needs of All Students? Read the answer to this week's question here: <http://bit.ly/15H16lc>, read past FAQs here: <http://bit.ly/1ioyoRn>.

**Contact:** Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or [michael.hock@state.vt.us](mailto:michael.hock@state.vt.us)

### **SBAC FAQ: How are the Assessments Being Tested before Implementation?**

#### **Audience: All**

How are the assessments being tested before implementation in the 2014-15 school year? [Click here](http://education.vermont.gov/sbac) to read the answer. Learn more about the new assessments here: <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>.

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### **SBAC FAQ: What are the Key Components of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System?**

#### **Audience: All**

What are the key components of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System? Read the answer here: <http://bit.ly/1su5vE5>, read past FAQs here: <http://bit.ly/1ioyoRn>.

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### **SBAC FAQ: Where can I find Practice Test Scoring Guides?**

#### **Audience: All**

Where can I find Practice Test scoring guides? [Click here](http://education.vermont.gov/sbac) to read the answer. Learn more about the new assessments here: <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>.

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### **SBAC FAQ: When is the Smarter Balanced Field Test Scheduled to be Administered?**

**Audience: All**

When is the Smarter Balanced Field Test scheduled to be administered? [Click here](#) to read the answer.

Learn more about the new assessments here: <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>.

**Contact:** Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or [michael.hock@state.vt.us](mailto:michael.hock@state.vt.us)

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